

Moments on Purpose

Life is funny; there are certain moments that are captured in our lives in which we can remember every detail. These moments then become a memory that we are able to go back to over and over again for the rest of our lives. Yet, between those memories there can be a lot of blurry space. There can be days and days of foggy memories where we just lived without anything standing out. I can travel back in time to the birth of my children and appreciate that memory any time I want to but if I try to remember what I did with my kids two weeks ago; it seems foggy to me.

My parents can remember what they were doing when they heard that John F Kennedy was killed and I can remember what I was doing when I heard that Princess Diana died. I remember many great moments as well like when I asked Christy to be my wife, the moment I knew I was called to preach and many more. These memories are moments of time in my life that have stood out. These moments happened to me and created a memory that I can look back on.

I know that life is filled with both of these times, the special moments that stand out and the day to day times in between. Usually we have these points in time happen to us with no effort of our own. Yet, there are also incredible, life altering moments that happen because we choose. In other words, you and I have the power to make a moment of time stand out because we choose too. Some examples are the moment you made the decision to get married or to accept a specific job. These are moments that changed your future. The time that you took courage and did something you were afraid of or stood up for yourself change who you are. When you asked Jesus into your life that was a moment of decision that will change you and your children's children. These "on purpose moments" are special because you decide when and where they happen.

These moments are perhaps the most important of our lives and they can happen on purpose. I can remember sitting on the edge of my bed when the Lord spoke to my heart and asked me if I was going to live my life like a normal person or if I was going to pursue the high call of God for my life. At first I said of course the High Call is for me but then He showed me the price that I would need to pay. After I saw the cost of laying down my life I said to Him "I don't think it is in me to become the man of holiness and sanctification that you are asking of me but.... if you will help me I choose the high call".

That decision changed my whole life and placed me on a path of prayer, power and success. "Moments on purpose" are powerful because they allow us to change the course of our life when we choose to. If we don't make an effort to create these moments then we are in danger of day to day life taking all of our time. I had a young man come to me for advice. He was set to be married in about a year's time and he thought it would be a great idea to work extra hard at staying out of debt for the wedding and I agreed with him whole heartedly.

Then he thought that it might be best for him to work two jobs until his wedding day so that he could save up enough money for the honeymoon too. I feel that it is real important for us to always strive to live without debt so I encouraged him and his wife to be to make good choices. Yet, I did caution him about trying too hard to fix everything so quickly especially if it was going to rob him of his private time with God. It was really important for him to learn at this time in his life how to hear God and follow His direction and not try making another way. I shared with him of how easy it is for life to pass you by once responsibilities are added to you. I said that if he focused so hard at a huge wedding and also to make it debt free that it would take all of his time. Then he would be in danger of life passing him by. As a believer it is important to make life follow you and not the other way around. I told him that if you don't have time to seek God and serve Him over this next year as you prepare to get married then you are letting life lead you instead of God.

I know how easy it is to say, "Once I get married then I will get hold of my time and come back to seeking Him and serving Him." But that is not how it usually works out. After you get married then you will want a house; so let's wait until I get the down payment saved and then I can follow God. It is not long after that when your wife becomes pregnant and you now must wait until your child is born and the nursery ready. Soon, you have more kids and then they will need braces. College is next and before you realize what has happened you will look back twenty years and see a blur of life that has passed you by.

I told the young man that now is the time to learn to listen and follow God and watch how He will guide you through every new responsibility without stealing your time. Too many have years of foggy memories because they didn't create a moment of change. It says in Hebrews 11:6 "*But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who **diligently** seek Him.*" It seems that God likes to reward diligence. Many people want God to wake them up from day to day life and grab their attention. Yet, years and years pass and they wonder, "Where is my calling? Where is my blessing? Where is my unanswered prayer?" They feel that whatever they have is because it is the will of God but **diligence** means that by choice you decide to seek Him. The Greek word from this scripture is *ekzeteo* and it means to "Zealously seek for something with all of one's heart, strength, and might". It gives the impression of us choosing to give all we have in an effort to seek God and His will for our lives.

Don't let life rob you from living! I want to encourage you to take some time this week and get alone with God. Take a few hours and set it aside with only you and Him. Then while you are alone with Him make a commitment that will change your life. Maybe set some extra time each week to pray in tongues this year or spend more time in God's word. Maybe there is something that you know you are suppose to do and you haven't done it yet. **This is your time.** "On purpose make a moment" of transformation that will not allow things to stay the same any longer. Don't be afraid of failing; be afraid of not trying. I believe that this is your season to overcome things in your life that have been holding onto you for a long time.

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